

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT MISSION AND GOALS

To grow disciples of Jesus Christ for the sake of the Kingdom of God:

- through **strategic planning and equipping leaders towards growth** in numbers of new disciples, depth of discipleship, and transformation of communities and society
- with these **concrete missional goals** for 2017-20:

1. Start eight new congregations through lay and clergy pioneering.
2. Teach every member how to share their faith and invite new people.
3. Expand every congregation's commitment to radical inclusion and hospitality.
4. While affirming ministry across generations, prioritise ministry with children, youth & young adults.
5. Live out mission, evangelism and justice beyond the walls of our buildings.
6. Build clear discipleship pathways that develop the ministry of all Christians.

HOW CAN I BE A PART OF CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS?

PRAY Ask God to help us align with God's Kingdom in every area of our ministry together.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGES Talk with the stewards and Ministers of your Congregation and Circuit about saying yes to the Four Pathways challenges.

JOIN THE CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS DISTRICT TEAM

Willing to be a champion of these new commitments or to help with communications strategy, grant writing and fund development, graphic design and social media, or data tracking and management? Get in touch!

HERE TO HELP YOU Our District staff is ready to encourage and equip Circuits and Congregations as you take the next steps into the future. We offer workshops on a variety of missional practices, values and vision discernment processes, a regular e-newsletter with new ideas, and coaching to help you think and lead differently.

CONTACT OUR MISSION ADVISOR, TREY HALL:

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Birmingham **Methodist** District 

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS

Becoming a hub of new mission and ministry experimentation for 21st century Britain

2017-2020

Birmingham **Methodist** District 

A NEW VISION

Led by Jesus Christ, the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church launches **Church Without Walls**, an inclusive Gospel movement that builds relationships with new people by starting new congregations, revitalising existing congregations, and raising up new leaders.

In the midst of seismic cultural changes, we dream of a bold, growing church that doesn't retreat into locked-up buildings but risks finding freedom in the world, in ministry with people of every race, gender, age and ability, sexuality, perspective and politics.

Church Without Walls equips us with practical tools to start conversations, discern missional strategies, and build confidence for faith-sharing and launching new forms of church.



Trey Hall

Mission Advisor of the Birmingham District

OUR LAUNCH YEAR

2017-2018 is a year of focused reflection, training, and action that fuels our long-term commitment to **Church Without Walls**, including:

- Challenges for every Circuit and Congregation in Four Pathways:
 1. Claiming God's Mission With Us.
 2. Growing Congregational Confidence.
 3. Getting Outside Our Buildings.
 4. Identifying Places for New Congregations.
- Mission Training events that generate new ideas, new skills, and new leaders.
- Coaching, equipping, and practical support from the District for everyone who is ready to lead change.

Church Without Walls offers us an opportunity to reshape the culture of our churches in ways that make mission a priority and a reality, helping us to grow as communities following Jesus and reaching out to God's world.

Ian Howarth, Chair of the Birmingham District



PATHWAY 1

CLAIMING GOD'S MISSION WITH US

Goal: We will know why we exist, what is distinctive about our identity and calling, and what important ministries we offer to the world.

Challenge: The District, each Circuit, and each Congregation will clarify its mission and discern its concrete missional goals for 2017-2020.

PATHWAY 2

GROWING CONGREGATIONAL CONFIDENCE

Goal: We will expand the capacity, courage, and joy for mission in each Congregation through a season of focused attention in worship from Advent 2017 – Lent 2018.

Challenges for each Circuit and Congregation:

- Incorporate the Congregation's mission into the welcome in every worship service.
- Build a system of intentional welcome, connection, and individual follow-up for every newcomer.
- Include a form of lay testimony in every worship service.
- Invite preachers to include a mission question, story, or application in every sermon.

PATHWAY 3

GETTING OUTSIDE OUR BUILDINGS

Goal: We will fling open the doors, take to the streets, and rediscover what creative, inclusive, fun evangelism feels like.

Challenge: From **20-29 April 2018**, each Circuit and Congregation participates in "Together in Mission" week, when teams across the District engage their communities with special evangelism experiments – like a pop-up café, community art project, games night, children's storytelling festival, pub quiz or prayer station.

PATHWAY 4

IDENTIFYING PLACES FOR NEW CONGREGATIONS

Goal: We will dive boldly into our District commitment to start eight new congregations by 2020.

Challenge: Each Circuit identifies the geographical area or human population from which a new congregation can be planned, funded, staffed, and launched in the future.

Challenge: The District launches two new congregations that are seedbeds for leadership development.

REIMAGINE CHURCH CONFERENCE

Join us on Saturday **10 March 2018** for our second annual Reimagine Church Conference, which will gather hundreds of people to engage conversations around leadership, mission, theology, and innovation.

Bring a team of people from your church to learn with thought leaders and practitioners from the cutting edge of church change and renewal.

TIMELINE FOR 2017-2018. Let's pray and prepare for our first year of Church Without Walls together!

MAY 2017	Synod Launch of Church Without Walls
JUNE – JULY '17	Circuits and Congregations pray about commitments
SEPT '17	Synod Celebration of Circuit Commitments
DEC '17 – MAR '18	Growing Congregational Confidence in Worship
MAR '18	Reimagine Church Conference
APRIL '18	Together in Mission Week
MAY '18	Synod Celebration and Next Steps